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Visits to UK by Begin.

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Middle East VJ

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1979

Dear Paul,

Prime Minister's Lunch for Mr. Begin at 10 Downing  
Street on Wednesday 23 May 1979

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, accompanied by the Israeli Ambassador and two advisers lunched with the Prime Minister at No. 10 today. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd and Sir Anthony Parsons were present.

I enclose a copy of my note of the discussion round the table at the end of the meal. The Prime Minister has asked that distribution of this record should be limited strictly to those Ministers and officials directly concerned with the Middle East problem.

The Prime Minister commented after Mr. Begin's call that it was clear from the discussion that Mr. Begin had no comprehension of the broader aspects of security and that there was no basis on which he could be persuaded to change his narrow concept of it. She was apprehensive that Mr. Begin's attitude could kill the whole process of the search for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

Baroness Corbett.

PC

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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